

REMARKS

In the September 14, 2009 Office Action, claims 33-38 and 41-45 were allowed. Such claims remain pending in the application and have not been amended in this Amendment.

Independent claim 24, along with claims 25-27 and 29-32, which are dependent upon claim 24, were rejected as obvious over Hasselmann U.S. patent No. 4,672,842 in combination with Liben U.S. patent No. 2,468,676 and Gearing U.S. patent No. 3,205,709.

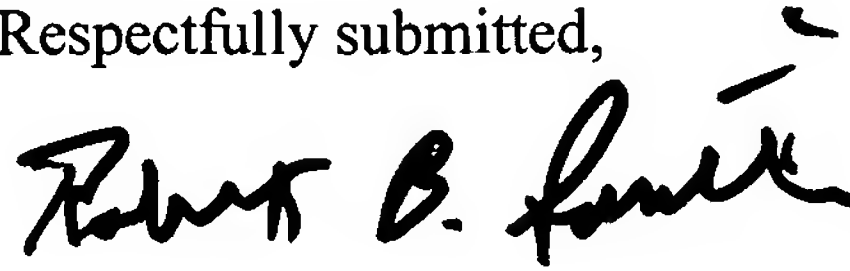
In the Examiner's Response To Arguments section on page 5, the Examiner noted that, in the prior Amendment:

Applicant states that in the instant invention, "the junctions are positioned within the apertures" in contrast to the prior art. This argument is not persuasive because this limitation is not claimed by claim 24 . . .

By the foregoing amendment, the limitation that the junctions are positioned within the apertures of the sheath has been added to independent claim 24. In the Office Action, the Examiner correctly notes that Liben discloses in Figure 3 a perforated sheath 43. By recognizing that the applicant's prior argument concerning the positioning of the junctions does not distinguish over the sheath arrangement in Liben, the Examiner appears to recognize that Liben does not disclose positioning the resistance wire 44 within the apertures of the sheath 43.

For such reason, the applicant respectfully requests favorable consideration and allowance of amended claim 24, as well as the claims dependent thereon.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert B. Smith", with a stylized flourish at the end.

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